

MILLENNIUM PIPELINE PROJECT

November 13, 2002

Department of Commerce
Tarrytown Hilton
455 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York

My name is William Stallings

I am here this evening speaking on behalf of the Mount Vernon Oversight and Review Coalition. The Coalition is also a part of the United Communities of Westchester.

Let me thank the Department of Commerce for coming to Westchester County to hear first hand the concerns of the affected parties the residents.

We are concerned, and many terrified, of the possibility that a high-pressured natural gas pipeline will be running through our county. This will result in an 8-mile, 75-foot gash that could become a terrorist target.

Running the pipeline so close to critical infrastructure could have an adverse affect/impact on this area. The pipeline will not deliver any natural gas to the Haverstraw Bay or Croton River zones. It will just pass through, causing harm to the environment.

The State of New York has designated the Haverstraw Bay a “significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat.”

There are scientific studies that document the unique nature of the Bay and the critical role it plays in the Atlantic coast ecosystem.

To construct this pipeline, there will be a need for blasting in the Haverstraw Bay area. This wasn't addressed in the Millennium environmental impact statement. The Bay is valuable. The blasting will disturb the toxic chemicals in the Hudson River that was dumped over the years by factories. This will, more than likely, cause the demise of the endangered shortnose sturgeon.



Let me now address the water supply.

Construction of the pipeline poses an unacceptable risk to the water supply. A pipeline construction accident or failure or terrorist act at the Catskill Aqueduct could result in a loss of up to 60% of the water for New Rochelle, Scarsdale, Elmsford, Mount Vernon and Yonkers, to name a few of the communities that would be affected. This will also result in New York City losing 35-40% of its water.

In the 2002 NYS Energy Plan, page 38, it was noted, "that there are 11 natural gas projects, including Millennium, that have been proposed to serve New York metropolitan region. Since not all of the natural gas from all of the projects is necessarily needed, competition will result in some projects not being built. The Millennium project is of no greater consequence to the promotion of economic development in the region than any other pipeline."

We request that the Department of Commerce will rule against this project and uphold the ruling of the New York State Department of State.

Thank you.

William Stallings

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